United Nations A/72/125

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 June 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 108 of the preliminary list*
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 68/192, 70/176, 71/209 and 71/287. It summarizes the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to prevent crime and reinforce criminal justice systems, thus strengthening the rule of law. The report also refers to developments relating to the governance and financial situation of the Office. It includes information on the status of ratifications of, or accessions to, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as on emerging policy issues, responses thereto and recommendations aimed at enhancing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

* A/72/50

V.17-04580 (E) 010817 020817

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In implementing the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to promote justice, the rule of law, crime prevention and reform of criminal justice institutions as important aspects of the global development agenda.

2. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to implement thematic programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the drug conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as to implement the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

3. The present report provides a brief overview of efforts undertaken by UNODC, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/209. The report also provides a brief overview of the progress made in the implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 64/293.

4. Furthermore, the report includes information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/176, on gender-related killing of women and girls.

5. The present report also showcases how the efforts undertaken by UNODC contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

6. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held its twenty-sixth session on 2 December 2016 and from 22 to 26 May 2017.

7. Nine resolutions were adopted by the Commission or recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly. The following draft resolutions were approved by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session and recommended, through the Economic and Social Council, for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session: (a) "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice"; (b) "Promoting the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)"; and (c) "Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism". Two other draft resolutions, which were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, focused on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and on promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies (see E/2017/30-E/CN.15/2017/13).

8. During its thematic discussion, the Commission considered the topic "Comprehensive and integrated crime prevention strategies: public participation, social policies and education in support of the rule of law".

9. Also at its twenty-sixth session, the Commission considered the standing item on its contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the deliberations on that item, it was noted that the Commission, through its mandate and functions, had a critical role to play in the monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development

Goals and that UNODC had been contributing to the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda through the support that it had been providing to the Commission.

III. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress

10. In its resolution 71/206, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In the same resolution, the Assembly welcomed the initiative of the Government of Qatar to work with UNODC in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration and also welcomed the funding agreement between the Government and the Office.

11. In fulfilment of the request by the Assembly contained in the same resolution, the Commission recommended, through the Economic and Social Council, for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". In that draft resolution, the Commission, inter alia, recommended that the overall theme for the Fourteenth Congress should be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda" and agreed on the provisional agenda and the issues that should be considered in workshops within the framework of the Congress.

12. During the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, Member States discussed how the Doha Declaration reflected, inter alia, the strong commitment of Member States to promote education for justice, incorporate rule-of-law issues into all levels of education and work closely with children and youth in order to convey key values based on the rule of law and supported by educational programmes. With the support of Qatar, UNODC had launched the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative as a key component of the Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, which was developed and was being implemented by UNODC.

IV. Action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in thematic areas

A. Enhancing international cooperation and responses to transnational crime

1. Transnational organized crime

13. UNODC continued to promote the ratification of and accession to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols. During the reporting period, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea acceded to the Convention (bringing the Convention to near-universal adherence, with 187 parties). Furthermore, Maldives acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (bringing the number of parties to 170) and Afghanistan acceded to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (bringing the number of parties to 144). The number of parties to the Protocol against the Illicit

Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition stood at 114.

14. In addition, UNODC provided legal advice to nearly 90 countries for promoting the ratification and implementation of the Convention. UNODC redeveloped the directory of competent national authorities under the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention and finalized the publication entitled *Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Needs Assessment Tools*. The tools can be used in the delivery of technical assistance, especially in assessing the needs of States parties for technical assistance, with a focus on implementing legislation; they have been electronically published in the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). The redevelopment of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool was also completed. UNODC raised awareness about the utility of the tool, in its expanded version, in various meetings on international judicial cooperation, including a national meeting in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, and a regional workshop to promote cooperation against the smuggling of migrants by sea affecting the Mediterranean Sea, held in Malta.

15. UNODC serviced the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, held in October 2016, which, inter alia, adopted resolution 8/2, thus deciding to continue the process of establishing a review mechanism on the implementation of the Convention. UNODC also continued to provide normative, technical and substantive support to the working groups established by the Conference, including the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining specific procedures and rules for a review mechanism for the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, convened in accordance with Conference resolution 8/2.

16. Through its Global Programme Against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC strengthened capacities to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in 75 requesting countries across nine subregions. That assistance was delivered through training, international conferences and substantive legal reviews targeting judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs, immigration and border control agencies. A cryptocurrency investigation train-the-trainers course was developed to introduce new skills to authorities for understanding the cryptocurrency concept and how to cooperate internationally on cryptocurrency cases. UNODC directly assisted Member States towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically target 16.4, to significantly reduce illicit financial flows by 2030.

17. The UNODC *Guidance Manual on Countering Kidnapping and Extortion* was used as the basis for common-response training of investigators in Kazakhstan in May 2017. Its availability was expanded to include Russian and Spanish language versions.

18. A new capacity-building initiative of the programme on strengthening of criminal investigation and criminal justice along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST) for judicial authorities commenced, targeting transatlantic transnational organized crime offences in Latin America and West Africa, while technical assistance was provided through the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors; the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus; the regional judicial platform of the Sahel countries and the regional judicial platform of the Indian Ocean Commission member States.

19. In partnership with the World Customs Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, UNODC continued to roll out its Container Control

Programme to address cross-border organized crime in maritime and air transport trade supply chains across all regions.

20. In coordination with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization, the European Police Office (Europol), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other regional organizations, the UNODC global programme on building effective networks against transnational organized crime has established operational links between international and regional law enforcement centres, together with regional cooperation platforms for prosecutorial and central authorities and financial intelligence units.

2. Countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

21. As mandated by the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in 2016, UNODC published the fourth *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, continued to host and manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and coordinated the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, which the Office also chaired. Two landmark policy papers, a practitioners' toolkit and an issue brief were launched under the chairmanship of UNODC. UNODC continued to participate in the Global Migration Group.

22. Under its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC provided technical assistance to more than 60 Member States in all regions, including Algeria, Botswana, Greece, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Suriname, Tunisia and Yemen. Of particular note are a pilot regional workshop on the identification, protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking among refugees and displaced persons from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq and a national pilot workshop on trafficking in the fishing industry in Indonesia.

23. UNODC also successfully completed 13 consultative assessments (Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine) on national responses in the framework of the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

24. UNODC produced two issue papers, *The Concept of "Financial or Other Material Benefit" in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol* and *The International Definition of Trafficking in Persons*, as well as the publication *Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases: Case Digest*, which sheds light on evidential issues and responses through analyses of concrete cases from around the world.

25. As of June 2017, the Human Trafficking Case Law Database included more than 1,430 cases from 99 jurisdictions. The Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal was launched to collect and analyse case law, legislation and literature on migrant smuggling, including more than 660 cases from 30 jurisdictions.

26. To enhance international cooperation in preventing and combating migrant smuggling and addressing jurisdictional issues at sea, UNODC organized transregional workshops focusing on South Asia and the Mediterranean. UNODC also held two regional expert meetings to strengthen capacities to improve joint criminal investigations and prosecutions and disrupt illicit financial flows from migrant smuggling in South-Eastern Europe. Furthermore, a regional workshop on enhancing international cooperation in addressing irregular migration-related crimes in the Western Balkans was jointly organized with OSCE and the International Organization for Migration. In addition, support was provided for the annual meeting of the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, which focused on migrant smuggling and the use of international instruments in addressing it.

3. Measures against trafficking in firearms

27. During the reporting period, UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, assisted 13 countries in their efforts to counter illicit firearms trafficking and engaged with 38 countries through regional activities.

28. In cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, UNODC provided legislative assistance by drafting firearms legislation and facilitating legal drafting workshops in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and the Niger. The Programme further increased awareness of the international legal framework governing firearms among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

29. UNODC strengthened preventive and security measures in Panama by initiating the development of a firearms record-keeping system and supported the refurbishment of storage facilities for seized weapons in Burkina Faso and Senegal. More than 90 law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners from Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger received training on investigating and prosecuting firearms-related offences. To further support States in identifying and monitoring illicit arms flows and following extensive consultations with statistical and weapons experts, the Programme revised its data collection methodology for seized and trafficked firearms, also taking into account target indicator 16.4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The second round of official data collection has been planned to commence in the second half of 2017.

B. Curbing corruption

30. As at 1 June 2017, there were 181 parties to the Convention against Corruption.

31. Under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, 144 executive summaries of country reviews were finalized. Follow-up technical assistance activities have been initiated in more than 40 countries. Since its inception, the Implementation Review Mechanism has received financial contributions from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In-kind contributions have also been provided by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Greece, Haiti, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.

32. The Implementation Review Group held its seventh session from 20 to 24 June 2016 and resumed that session from 14 to 16 November 2016. The Group considered, inter alia, the implementation of the Convention, the assessment of the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, technical assistance and financial and budgetary matters.

33. At its seventh meeting, from 20 to 24 August 2016, the Working Group on Prevention addressed both the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention and integrity in sport. At its tenth meeting, on 25 and 26 August 2016, the Working Group on Asset Recovery discussed settlements and other alternative mechanisms in transnational bribery cases and their implications for the recovery and return of stolen assets. The seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption will be held from 6 to 10 November 2017 in Vienna.

34. At the global level, the Office continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools that address the needs of anti-corruption practitioners with regard to specific aspects, challenges, policies and good practices relating to the implementation of the Convention. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, developed by UNODC in 2012, continued to be successful. Its legal library contains laws, jurisprudence and information on anti-corruption authorities from 185 States, with a total of 56,068 legal provisions. TRACK also hosts the resources of the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative and a private sector portal.

35. UNODC has continued to provide a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels to meet the growing demands of States parties. UNODC field-based anti-corruption advisers served as key focal points for the provision of anti-corruption technical assistance. Those advisers provide rapidly deployable professional expertise at both the country and the regional levels to facilitate the delivery of on-site guidance to States parties requesting assistance in strengthening legislation and institutions in furtherance of their implementation of the Convention.

36. UNODC also provided targeted technical assistance at the global, regional and national levels to support the prevention, detection and investigation of corruption. For example, the Office expanded its work on issues related to integrity and good governance in sport, working closely with the International Olympic Committee, INTERPOL and other international organizations. The Office also provided training at the national level for investigators, prosecutors, police and customs officials on conducting corruption investigations, including financial analysis, audits, special investigation techniques, forensic accounting and case management. In 2016, UNODC launched a new global project to strengthen judicial integrity, leading up to the launch of a global judicial integrity network in 2018. UNODC continued its leading role in the ACAD Initiative, which seeks to encourage the teaching and research of corruption-related issues by higher level education institutions. Building on this, UNODC will expand its work on anti-corruption and integrity education in the coming years under a global project on education for justice that includes components on education for primary and secondary schools as well as for universities. Finally, UNODC continued its efforts to mainstream anti-corruption into the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime to identify and counter corruption risks.

37. Under the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, UNODC, together with the World Bank, continued to provide both case-related and general capacity-building support to several countries. Those countries were given assistance in strengthening their capacities in asset tracing, international cooperation, the preparation and conduct of case consultations, and case strategy development. UNODC actively participated in the discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including on establishing measurable indicators for Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In addition, UNODC and UNDP continued to support joint efforts to integrate anti-corruption into United Nations programming. UNODC also coordinated with the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat on measures to counter corruption.

C. Preventing and countering terrorism

38. UNODC, as mandated by the General Assembly, is the primary office in the United Nations Secretariat for providing legal and capacity-building assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism.

Through its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, UNODC delivered over 80 technical assistance activities, and trained more than 2,000 criminal justice and law enforcement officials during the period under review.

39. The Office continued to raise awareness of the importance of the ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments related to counter-terrorism. That work contributed to 21 new ratifications of those instruments by assisted Member States and to the drafting and review of 14 additional pieces of counter-terrorism legislation. The Office's multi-year efforts to promote nuclear security contributed to the entry into force on 8 May 2016 of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Legislative services for the revision of anti-terrorism legislation were provided to several Member States, including Iraq and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, UNODC continued to support Tunisia in the implementation of its counter-terrorism law and strategy, both of which it developed with a substantive contribution by UNODC.

40. UNODC advanced its work with national parliaments and strengthened partnerships with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in order to promote a collective parliamentary response to terrorism.

41. The Office provided counter-terrorism technical assistance to countries in South and South-East Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, West and Central Africa — including the Sahel, Nigeria and the Horn of Africa, Central America, the Middle East and North Africa, and South-Eastern Europe. Activities focused on traditional counter-terrorism subjects such as investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism cases with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, terrorism financing, and the use of information and communications technologies by terrorists. It also addressed evolving terrorist threats, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and their radicalization, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and the management of violent extremist offenders in prisons.

42. The implementation of the Office's global initiative on criminal justice responses to the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters also progressed well. The initiative demonstrated its efficiency in providing a forum for criminal justice officials to meet and exchange good practices and to discuss ways of further improving inter-State cooperation. Technical assistance in that area was provided to countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

43. UNODC also continued to provide robust training on respecting human rights while countering terrorism. In that context, UNODC assisted countries of the Sahel and the Middle East and North Africa region on, inter alia, dealing with situations in which children are recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and partnered with OHCHR to initiate assistance on gender dimensions in criminal justice re ponses to terrorism.

44. In the Sahel region, UNODC continued to promote and further strengthen the regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries to facilitate extradition and mutual legal assistance and actively contributed to the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

45. In addition to its ongoing programmes, UNODC initiated several new technical assistance projects. For example, during the period under review, the Office launched the next phase of a multi-year partnership between it, Nigeria, the European Union and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

46. The UNODC counter-terrorism legal training curriculum was complemented with a new module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. The module on the universal legal framework against terrorism is now under revision, and an additional new

publication on countering terrorism in the international legal context is under development. Furthermore, the Office produced a version of the training module entitled *Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism* adapted to the counter-terrorism law of Kenya. The Office also finalized training materials for criminal justice training institutions from South-Eastern Europe on prosecution and investigation in foreign terrorist fighter-related cases.

47. The Office further strengthened partnerships with entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including through co-chairing three Task Force working groups. Taking into account its mandate on terrorism prevention, UNODC plays an important role in overall United Nations efforts to support Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. More specifically, 50 per cent of the projects under pillar III of the Strategy, on capacity-building, are implemented by UNODC.

48. UNODC further enhanced cooperation and operational partnerships with Security Council-mandated bodies, such as CTED, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The Office is also working on a continuous basis with several regional and international partners, such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, INTERPOL and OSCE.

D. Preventing crime and strengthening criminal justice systems

49. In 2016, through its global, regional and country programmes and field office network, UNODC made significant progress in the promotion of the use and application of standards and norms, thereby supporting effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems and contributing to the achievement of Goals 5, 11 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Technical assistance was provided in the areas of crime prevention, penal reform, access to justice, police reform and justice for children.

1. Crime prevention

50. UNODC continued to enhance effective crime prevention policies and strategies, including in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Health Organization (WHO). As part of its Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC piloted a new initiative on youth crime prevention that seeks to foster life-skills through sports and build the resilience of at-risk youth. In Ethiopia and Myanmar, UNODC assisted in the development of national crime prevention strategies. In Kyrgyzstan, the Office facilitated participatory public safety and crime prevention planning in 14 municipalities. As part of a joint programme with UN-Habitat to support participatory crime diagnosis and policy development, the Office commenced project implementation in cities in Colombia, Mexico and South Africa.

2. Strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to respond to violence against women and girls

51. During the reporting period, UNODC collaborated with other United Nations entities in using the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence* to support countries in adopting a systematic, multisectoral and sustained approach to fighting violence against women in accordance with international standards and norms. Together with UN-Women and other partners, UNODC developed a practitioners' manual on women's access to justice, to be launched in 2017, and contributed to the compilation of good practices for preventing and

addressing sexual and gender-based violence in cases involving deprivation of liberty, led by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of OSCE.

52. UNODC also provided technical assistance to over 10 countries to strengthen national responses to violence against women, including by organizing a training workshop on effective prosecution responses to violence against women, in collaboration with UN-Women and the Thailand Institute of Justice. In Southern Africa, UNODC provided advisory services on responses to violence against women and on gender issues in the criminal justice system in Lesotho and Namibia. In Egypt, UNODC developed training manuals for criminal justice actors, trained 60 senior prosecutors and 50 forensic doctors, supported the establishment of two specialized clinics and a data management system for cases of violence against women. In Kenya, UNODC continued to support gender-sensitive police reform, training 450 police station commanders on the actions required to implement a new gender mainstreaming policy. In Somalia, UNODC provided input to draft legislation on sexual offences and conducted training on investigation techniques and criminal justice responses to gender-based violence in situations of conflict. In Viet Nam, UNODC trained 120 criminal justice practitioners on providing assistance to survivors of violence against women, and supported local governments in implementing a domestic violence minimum intervention package and in establishing domestic violence rapid-response teams. In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC local crime prevention planners carried out a police mentoring programme to encourage women to join the police. In Bahrain, UNODC reviewed and provided recommendations on the 2015 law on domestic violence. In Mexico, UNODC undertook a risk assessment on gender-based violence in indigenous communities, drafted protocols and guidelines for justice and security officers on assisting victims of violence against women and developed intervention models to prevent such violence among young people. UNODC also supported the response to violence against women in the State of Palestine, by, among other things, assisting in the establishment of three forensic medicine clinics in West Bank hospitals and developing standard operating procedures in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

3. Protecting the fundamental freedoms of defendants

53. UNODC promoted the protection of the rights of defendants, including through strengthening access to legal aid and by providing States with opportunities to exchange experiences and tools to conduct institutional reform, including the new UNODC *Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries*. The Office co-hosted the second International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, held in Buenos Aires in November 2016, together with the Government of Argentina and other partners, where the UNDP/UNODC *Global Study on Legal Aid: Global Report* was launched, the first comprehensive stocktaking exercise to measure access to justice across all regions with relevance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Protecting the legitimate interests of victims and witnesses

54. UNODC provided technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in using and applying the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime. Capacity-building activities were provided by UNODC to States in the Sahel, and the Middle East and North Africa region.

5. Information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/176, on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls

55. United Nations entities continued to support action by Member States against gender-related killing of women and girls, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 68/191 and 70/176. UNODC published updated figures on gender-related killing, which revealed that women made up 78 per cent of all victims of

intimate partner homicides worldwide, with few differences between regions. UNODC continued to support crime prevention and criminal justice responses to gender-related killing and other forms of violence against women in more than 10 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences proposed modalities for the establishment of so-called "femicide watches" and/or observatories, to collect and analyse data on gender-related killing of women and girls. OHCHR assisted countries of Latin America and the Caribbean by providing specialized training, disseminating the publication *Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-related Killings of Women* and developing an e-learning course. In partnership with the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, UN-Women prepared two publications concerning the legislative framework on gender-related killing of women in Latin America. UNDP supported efforts to address low rates of reporting and prosecution of cases of violence against women, including through a study on gender-related killing in Brazil, the provision of support for specialized courts in Guatemala and the raising of awareness about trends in gender-related killing in Panama. The United Nations Population Fund developed a new Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection in collaboration with the European Union, focusing on Asia and the South Caucasus region. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders raised awareness of the connection between gender-related killing and human trafficking, including by participating in the Kigali International Conference in March 2017, which adopted a declaration highlighting the issue of human trafficking as a factor contributing to the violation of the rights of women and girls.

E. Data collection, research and trend analysis, and international cooperation in the forensic field

56. The third edition of the biennial UNODC *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293, was published in December 2016, based on data from 136 countries around the world. It included a thematic chapter on the links between trafficking in persons, migration and conflict. UNODC has begun to collect data for the 2018 edition.

57. UNODC continued to support Member States through the development of statistical standards and technical support for statistical data on crime and criminal justice. The first global meeting of focal points for the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems was held in Vienna from 9 to 11 May 2016. On the basis of the decisions taken at the meeting, UNODC launched a review of the Survey through a process of global consultation with Member States. The revised instrument will reflect new methodological requirements deriving from the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

58. The revised Survey will also reflect new data requirements for the monitoring of indicators on crime, violence, trafficking, access to justice, corruption and other relevant topics under Goal 16 and other Sustainable Development Goals. As the office identified by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators as the possible custodian of several of the indicators mentioned above,[1] UNODC collects, validates and supplies data for the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring process and has undertaken further methodological work on the indicators through the development of a manual on the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, a manual on the conducting of corruption surveys and guidelines for victimization survey-based Sustainable Development Goal indicators. In partnership with the United Nations

[1] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification.

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and several other organizations and entities, UNODC also plans to develop solid methodological approaches to measure the Sustainable Development Goal indicator on illicit financial flows.

59. To improve the availability and quality of crime statistics worldwide and to support Member States in producing relevant data, UNODC provided technical assistance at national and regional workshops and training events in South-East Asia and Latin America and prepared to further expand those activities to Africa and other parts of Asia in 2017.

60. UNODC advanced its efforts to enhance the capacity of forensic science institutions worldwide through the development of guidelines and manuals and the promotion of forensic best practices, from the crime scene to the courtroom. The Office continued to provide reference materials, standardized training programmes and tools in support of law enforcement officials, laboratory experts and the judiciary. These included e-learning programmes on security document examination, available in English and Spanish, designed to enhance border security and to prevent and combat identity-related crimes, in particular in relation to trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and the movement of terrorists. UNODC also continued to enhance the professional development of forensic practitioners and provide quality-assurance support to forensic institutions with the development of a web-based international collaborative exercise for security document examination.

61. UNODC promoted regional forensic science cooperation by supporting and participating in activities of regional forensic networks such as the Asian Forensic Sciences Network. The Office also promoted international strategic cooperation in forensic science in the framework of the International Forensic Strategic Alliance, a partnership among regional forensic science networks, including by supporting the creation of new forensic networks in targeted regions.

F. Emerging policy issues and responses

1. Piracy

62. Under its Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC continued supporting States' criminal justice systems and building capacity among maritime law enforcement. The Southern Route Partnership, established under the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime, is a coordination and cooperation platform among Indian Ocean coastal States fighting heroin trafficking by sea. Prison reform work, including preventing violent extremism in prisons, was further strengthened in East Africa and in Somalia, including by embedding advisers within prison institutions. The Programme has expanded the reach of its existing maritime crime activities in Africa into South Asia, South-East Asia and the Caribbean. UNODC also developed the publication *Maritime Crime: A Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners*.

2. Cybercrime and the use of new information technologies to abuse and exploit children

63. In countering cybercrime, UNODC works with national, regional, international and private sector partners, ensuring that it brings niche capabilities to capacity-building efforts around the world, minimizes duplication and promotes cooperation. Through its Global Programme on Cybercrime, UNODC supported Member States by reviewing national legislation, providing training on cybercrime investigations and digital forensics, facilitating the establishment of a specialized cybercrime unit and a regional cooperation network on cybercrime and electronic evidence. The Programme also supported the delivery of preventive education with a particular focus on protecting children from online sexual exploitation and abuse. In Central America, the focus was on enhancing national responses to online child sexual exploitation and abuse. During the reporting period, UNODC delivered technical assistance and capacity-building in more than 50 countries, and sensitized over 11,000 children in El Salvador to cyber-risk. Furthermore, UNODC provided

secretariat services to the third meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017.

3. Trafficking in cultural property

64. During the reporting period, UNODC launched the publication entitled *Practical Assistance Tool to Assist in the Implementation of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences*. UNODC took part in the global initiative on "Protecting cultural heritage: an imperative for humanity" led by Italy and Jordan, which resulted in a report presented in September 2016 at a high-level ministerial meeting in New York. UNODC collected and disseminated cases and national legislation on trafficking in cultural property and continued providing technical assistance to Member States in combating trafficking in cultural property.

4. Environmental crime, including illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora

65. Under the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, UNODC assisted more than 30 source, transit and destination countries in strengthening their criminal and preventive responses to wildlife crime. Technical assistance focused on enhancing enforcement activities, building prosecutorial and judicial capacities and strengthening legal frameworks, as well as conducting research and analysis to better understand the challenges faced and design appropriate responses. UNODC has expanded its work in combating corruption and money-laundering related to wildlife crime, including through corruption risk assessments and risk mitigation plans. Furthermore, UNODC has carried out awareness-raising work at the international level on the serious nature of organized crime along the fisheries value chain. UNODC is also an active member of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, a collaborative effort of five intergovernmental organizations working to bring coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and subregional and regional networks.

V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

66. At its twenty-sixth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decided to renew the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the part of the session of the Commission to be held in the first half of 2021, at which time the Commission should carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate. The working group continued to play an important role as a forum for discussion in areas such as strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation and the financial situation of the Office.

67. The financial situation of UNODC remained vulnerable: the decline in unearmarked funds continued in 2016 and the share of regular budget funds amounted to 5.9 per cent of the revised consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017, which totalled $642.9 million. Those low levels of non-earmarked funding represented a key challenge to the strategic and effective implementation of the mandates of UNODC, putting a strain on management, coordination and normative functions.

68. The consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 builds on the lessons learned since the launch of the full cost recovery funding model, namely, the need to calculate programme delivery costs transparently, fairly and consistently; to use funding sources for their intended purposes; and to seek ways to realize cost

efficiencies. The continued implementation of full cost recovery in the biennium 2016-2017 remains essential for ensuring the financial sustainability of the Office.

69. In 2016, pledges for voluntary contributions to UNODC reached $297 million, the largest donors being the United States, Colombia, the European Union, Japan and Panama. General-purpose contributions further declined to $3.9 million (1.3 per cent of total voluntary contributions), provided in the main by Germany, Sweden and the United States.

70. In 2016, UNODC continued the implementation of major initiatives to strengthen the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution; these include the United Nations Secretariat-wide enterprise resource planning system (Umoja), the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the Framework on the Engagement of External Parties and enterprise risk management.

71. At the UNODC annual appeal event, held in Vienna on 25 February 2016, UNODC presented the funding needs for the biennium 2016-2017 and highlighted the resources necessary to assist Member States in countering drugs, crime and terrorism. The event was framed within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighted the links between UNODC mandates and the attainment of sustainable and equitable growth for all.

72. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a goal specifically addressing the need for partnerships, represents a fundamental shift in approach requiring an increased level of inter-agency cooperation. In this regard, the Office has worked towards greater engagement with other organizations with whom it already has memorandums of understanding and other collaborative agreements in place, and also with new partners. In addition, existing agreements were reviewed, and based on current priorities, geopolitical events and resource redistribution, some of them were once again prioritized.

73. Furthermore, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Office has actively worked towards realigning its global, regional and country programme portfolio to establish explicit links between its technical cooperation efforts and specific goals and targets, in particular those related to Sustainable Development Goal 16. Particular emphasis has been placed on including standard indicators and targets as part of the Office's approach to results-based management, allowing the programme portfolio to showcase how it contributes to efforts by Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, the Office has been revitalizing its programmatic framework to enhance its commitments to achieving concrete results on the ground within a broader human rights framework.

74. The Office is strengthening its cooperation with national and local government structures to address issues related to urban governance and the impact of crime and gang-related violence, including in the context of the New Urban Agenda. In that connection, the Office organized a side event at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, on the impact of organized crime on city safety, in partnership with UN-Habitat and UN-Women.

75. At present, UNODC carries out its activities in cooperation with other departments and offices of the Secretariat and entities of the United Nations system. The European Union continued to support the Office's integrated programmes across the globe. UNODC works closely with international and regional organizations such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, UNESCO, Europol, OSCE and others, both in the implementation of specialized technical assistance and in encouraging coordination between their respective members in addressing illicit trafficking, cross-border organized crime and threats to security.

76. The Independent Evaluation Unit evaluates the portfolio of UNODC according to universal standards and norms, with a focus on gender and human rights, and cooperates with auditors to ensure efficiencies in oversight. Although a professional

peer review of the evaluation function reflected impressive progress since 2010, further investments are crucial to strengthening accountability in UNODC. Three in-depth evaluations of global programmes were finalized and presented to the Executive Director, senior management and Member States, and 16 project evaluations were backstopped, completed and published on the website. The Unit further engaged in supporting Member States in strengthening national evaluation capacity in line with the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 69/237 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

VI. Recommendations

77. **It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following actions, including with a view to furthering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:**

(a) **Continue to attach high priority to strengthening the rule of law and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the prevention of crime and the promotion of fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems;**

(b) **Promote technical assistance with the aim of building capacity among Member States in order to consistently monitor and report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on the mandated areas of work of UNODC;**

Addressing transnational organized crime

(c) **Call upon Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;**

(d) **Invite Member States to adopt legislative and other measures to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, including through the adaptation of their national legislation to the relevant provisions on criminalization and international cooperation in criminal matters of those instruments, and further encourage Member States that are parties to the Convention to promote and strengthen international cooperation by implementing and making more effective use of the Convention as the legal basis for that purpose;**

(e) **Encourage Member States to apply the guidelines contained in the United Nations *Guidance Manual on Countering Kidnapping and Extortion* as a common basis for response training and capacity-building of investigators;**

(f) **Call on Member States, when investigating money-laundering crimes, to also conduct parallel financial investigations and to follow the money trails, with the ultimate aim of depriving criminal groups of their proceeds of crime through confiscation measures;**

(g) **Encourage Member States to make best use of the capacities of regional and international coordination centres, platforms of law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial bodies and financial intelligence units in order to ensure effective support for multilateral operations and investigations targeting all forms of organized crime and illicit financial flows originating from it;**

(h) **Call upon States to prioritize and enhance the identification of victims of human trafficking, especially people on the move and those affected by conflict and humanitarian crises, to ensure their access to assistance and a more consistent and full application of their rights;**

(i) **Call upon States to more actively prevent and combat organized crime related to the smuggling of migrants or trafficking in persons through the application of existing commitments, measures and tools;**

(j) Encourage Member States to initiate action against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition in line with their commitment to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

Curbing corruption

(k) Encourage Member States that have not already done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(l) Encourage States parties and signatories to the Convention against Corruption to make efforts to ensure its full implementation;

(m) Encourage Member States to afford each other the widest measure of cooperation and assistance for the recovery and return of assets;

Preventing and countering terrorism

(n) Encourage Member States to ratify and implement the 19 international legal instruments related to counter-terrorism and to implement relevant United Nations resolutions;

(o) Encourage Member States to utilize the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC to strengthen their criminal justice systems, including with regard to newly emerging challenges;

(p) Encourage Member States to increase international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism;

Preventing crime and strengthening criminal justice systems

(q) Call on Member States to adopt and implement long-term crime prevention and criminal justice reform policies, strategies, plans and programmes that are knowledge-based and multisectoral, cutting across ministries and engaging public participation, in order to ensure the full implementation of existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

(r) Call on Member States to include crime prevention and criminal justice reform objectives in their national plans towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, national drug policies, poverty reduction strategy papers and related budgets and funding systems, including specific targets and objectives relating to crime prevention, reintegration of offenders and victims, violence against women, violence against children and good governance in the criminal justice system;

(s) Call on Member States to consider requesting technical assistance from UNODC when embarking on the development and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes, and to make full use of relevant UNODC tools, such as handbooks, training materials and model laws;

Data collection, research and trend analysis and international cooperation in the forensic field

(t) Encourage UNODC to further develop and provide methodological support and guidance to Member States for the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and for the production of statistical data and indicators that are relevant for the monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

(u) **Request UNODC to continue to develop, in close cooperation with Member States, technical and methodological tools and trend analyses and studies to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses regarding areas of the Sustainable Development Goals that relate to the mandate of UNODC;**

(v) **Request UNODC, in collaboration with Member States, to continue to support the development of sustainable forensic science services worldwide by promoting the implementation of forensic best practices, including the development of guidelines, reference materials and training tools and the provision of quality-assurance support, and to encourage and facilitate international cooperation through the establishment and maintenance of regional forensic science networks;**

Emerging policy issues

(w) **Invite Member States to strengthen their crime prevention and criminal justice responses to cybercrime;**

(x) **Call upon Member States to address low rates of prosecution for wildlife crimes, and request UNODC to continue to deliver training and develop technical and methodological tools and resource guides to support Member States and prosecutors in that endeavour;**

Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(y) **Encourage Member States to continue to actively participate in the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC;**

(z) **Urge Member States to provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner;**

(aa) **Urge Member States to provide greater general purpose (unearmarked) and soft-earmarked funding to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation with regional bodies and partner countries worldwide;**

(bb) **Call on Member States to support the implementation of the recommendations of the peer review to ensure strengthened accountability and a strengthened evaluation function in UNODC in order to enable it to fully implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner, also in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and to deliver key accountability services and products with a clear focus on gender and human rights;**

(cc) **Enhance integration and coordination within the United Nations system with a view to further promoting a culture of results-based accountability and transparency.**